



SAAG MEETING #2 | Summary Notes

Date + Time April 9, 2018 | 6-9pm

Location San Jose City Hall, Committee Rooms 118-120

Meeting Objectives

- Understanding of the Brown Act and City's Sunshine Ordinance
- Overview of Google high-level principles and inspirations
- Review of existing conditions data
- Discussion of Solution Groups

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of SAAG #1 Summary Notes
3. Presentation on the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance
4. Google's Design Principles and Inspiration
5. Existing Conditions Information
6. Solution Groups
7. Public Comment
8. Next Steps and Meeting Schedule
9. Adjourn

ATTENDANCE

SAAG Members: 36 of the 38 SAAG members were present at the meeting (*please see the Meeting Minutes posted to the project website for the names of SAAG members that were present*)

City Staff : Kim Walesh – *Deputy City Manager*; Lee Wilcox – *Chief of Staff*; Loren Haley – *Real Estate Manager*; Nanci Klein – *Director of Real Estate*

Presenters: Ed Moran – *Assistant City Attorney (City of San Jose)*; Joe Van Belleghem - *Sr. Director of Development* and Mark Golen - *VP Real Estate and Workplace Services (Google)*

Consultant Team: Matt Raimi – *Principal (Raimi+Associates)*; Dave Javid – *Principal (Plan to Place)*

Public: There were approximately 70 members of the public were present at the meeting



SUMMARY

On April 9, 2018, the Diridon Station Area Advisory Committee (SAAG) held its third meeting to discuss the Diridon Station area and the potential project. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a Brown Act training to SAAG members, hear from Google representatives about the design principles and concepts that inspire them, review available existing conditions information and confirm Solution Group topics. The following are the summary notes/take-aways by major agenda item.

GOOGLE'S DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND INSPIRATION

Joe Van Belleghem from Google provided a presentation that highlighted the key design principles and concepts that he has been inspired by in projects that he has been involved with and others that he has experienced. He noted the importance of creating community through place-making, and the areas within San Jose and beyond that the Diridon Area project can pull from. Mr. Van Belleghem also noted the importance of engaging the community in the planning process and referenced a range of potential topics that Google would like to get feedback on, including: Housing and Affordability; Mobility and Transportation; Experience, Arts & Culture; Natural Systems and Ecology; Natural Resources Climate Change and Resilience; Safety, Health and Wellbeing; Vibrant Mixed-Use Communities; Diversity and Inclusion; Job Creation and Skills Training; Digital Infrastructure; and Fiscal Responsibility.

The following is feedback from the SAAG when asked what their general responses were to the presentation. The SAAG was also asked to think about what areas/places the Diridon area could draw inspiration from and why, and what concepts or ideas Google should think about. The SAAG will present those ideas at the next SAAG meeting.

- **SAAG input:**

- Respecting nature is good, must also take care of people (i.e. people that may be displaced) ; displacement has many impacts; Housing will be integral, important part of the project
- Appreciative of the genuine and open approach and felt the direction is promising
- Scale of the work is important (i.e. not piecemeal); Complete urban neighborhoods
- People-first project – San Jose's talent should be tapped; creativity and cultural experiences
- Want something distinct; a Live, work environment; world class development, early activation and preserve culture
- Employment growth would include more time on roads and higher environmental impacts
- Closed systems and environmental stewardship is good; appreciate urban agriculture as part of development
- Concept of Diridon Station is important in project (e.g., better quality of life with transit/access)
- Appreciated holistic perspective of presentation and proper stewardship for the earth
- Excited to see creek built into example development (e.g., could daylight Los Gatos Creek)
- Early activation – need to think about next 5-7 years
- Antithesis of Cupertino (Apple Campus)
 - We don't want a citadel in City center
- Balance of security and openness; Hope more open



- Issue of people (i.e. service workers) being pushed to places that don't benefit from transit (i.e. Hollister)
 - Certain amount of housing must be built
 - Ideas about how it will happen?
 - Housing needs to be one of the buckets
 - Community is already here, need to focus on preserving
 - Development will impact neighborhoods outside of Diridon – must respect existing neighborhoods and housing; integrate with neighborhoods and transit. (e.g., the at grade option will devastate the neighborhood)
 - Presentation was inspiring and exciting, we must think about climate in San Jose and making places where people congregate and connect
 - Balanced outcome with inputs from SAAG and community
 - Desire more information on integration in existing neighborhoods including historic nature
 - Things change rapidly (i.e. scooters), must think about future of EV's, etc.
- **SAAG questions to consider:**
 - How do you address our diverse set of cultures?
 - Perception that there is a grand master plan being shared
 - Scale changes everything – what is the plan for scale?
 - Phasing? This is a marathon. Timing of transit is important
 - Certain amount of housing must be built, and ideas about how it will happen?
 - How does Google project integrate with other developments in this area?
 - How to think through housing and affordable housing?
 - Is there a plan for uses? R&D? Customer support?
 - What types of jobs are being planned?
 - Definitely in tech genre
 - Focus on designing in 1000-year timeline, flexible places
 - Heard about 20,000 jobs, what types? All tech workers? Support workers who aren't paid as well?

Summary of Response to Questions

- *This is the beginning of a long road ahead, no plans have been prepared to date, we are very early in the process.*
- *Google wants feedback from community early in the process before planning anything for the site.*
- *Anticipating for the project development to be phased, but no definite plans yet.*
- *Google supports alternative modes of travel and is interested in enhancing bike and pedestrian networks.*
- *Excited about activation in parks and young people*
 - *Children coming downtown*
 - *Bike trails are a big asset*
 - *Can see San Jose's potential and love the diversity*
- *In response to the type of jobs being planned for, Google realizes that the industry is changing rapidly, and not sure at this point the type of jobs that will be created.*

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The SAAG was provided a range of existing conditions information prior to the SAAG #2 Meeting. At the meeting there was a brief presentation to provide an overview of the information gathered to date, recognizing that the SAAG will dig deeper into the data and have questions answered in the Solution Groups. The SAAG was asked what additional information they would like as we transition into the Solution Group meetings, to provide background information that can help support the discussion. The following is input received on the data gathered to date and additional data requested:

Input on data gathered to date:

- Concern about displacement in larger radius
- Resources in City to answer specific questions?
 - *Yes, City will be a resource to answer questions.*
- A 10-minute walk (1/2 mile) is more relevant
- Can we get more granular data? As-is, seems misleading
- Sparsely populated areas have skewed data
- Request for interactive maps and/or data tables in excel for reference

Data/Information Requests

- Data on homeless encampments and crime
- Projected ratio of tech works vs. service workers
 - Low wage workers may not be able to live in area
- Information on jobs? Racial/gender make-up of Google's workers?
- Can we get data points from Berkeley study?
- Location of services (e.g., social services)
- Location of parks and public spaces
- Service worker's wages compared to Tech
- SNAP (lunch assistance) poverty indicator and 3rd grade literacy
- Elementary school education and physical access to schools
- Rent-controlled units and deed-restricted affordable at-risk in next seven years
- Non-profits serving community and impact on these
- Identify hazards (i.e. flood, earthquake)
- Phase I Environmental Report

SOLUTION GROUPS

The purpose, logistics and structure (e.g., format of each meeting and how potential solutions will be recorded) of the Solution Groups was confirmed at the meeting, along with the topics that the SAAG would like to cover in the Solution Groups. The objective is to have five total Solution Groups that will each meet twice over the next couple of months and report back to the SAAG.



The following are questions and input received from the SAAG:

- Can Alternates attend Solution Groups?
 - *City to confirm with City Attorney's Office regarding Brown Act, it appears to be OK for alternates to attend the meetings*
- Is it OK to bring in other community members?
 - *Yes, the Solution Groups will be open to public*
- Where does downtown residential neighborhood impacts (e.g., construction related impacts) go?
 - *That will most likely be discusses within the Neighborhood Quality of Life topic*
- Jobs/Education/Economic Development may be too many topics to put together? Consider splitting them up so there can be solutions for each.
 - *It is anticipated that sub-topics will be identified so each can have their own solutions*
- Would like to have more public comment, with meetings at times accessible to working people with kids
- Concerned about timing... Will ideas have time to bake?
 - *Its an aggressive schedule but with two meetings per group and ongoing SAAG meetings there will be time to discuss ideas*
- What is Google's role in sub-committees?
 - *Google wants to participate and absorb the information gathered*
- Consider bringing in experts/tap into expertise of SAAG

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nine members of the public provided comments during the public comment period. The following is a overview of their comments:

- Post all documents given to the SAAG on the project website, including meeting notes.
- Consider historic preservation as there are many resources on the site that should be considered
- Transit to and through Diridon will be important and make Guadalupe River an attraction with walking trails along it; bike connections also important; make the area an attraction.
- Support for labor and opening the possibility for minorities (union or not) and members of the community to work at Google.
- Interested to hear more about BART extension and how it will be integrated.
- Currently working on gentrification issues downtown; process needs to be transparent and communicate existing conditions.
- Garden Alameda wants to be a part of the conversation; area needs to have livable streets with traffic calming (e.g., landscaped median needed along Stockton Ave); need bike lanes on all major streets that is designed to be safe for bikers; Taylor Street corridor also needs to be improved; separated bike lanes needed on all major streets.
- Google's presentation including a discussion that about nature was very encouraging; provide opportunity to include landscape, nature and hydrology in plan, not only as part of mitigation; consider it as another topic area.



- Main concern is to stop displacement; tech companies need to address this issue; need guarantee that this project won't displace more people and reduce the diversity in the area; need responsible development.
- Consider Public Comment after each topic on the SAAG agenda.
- Presentation by Google was refreshing, but need to consider that this project is not just Downtown or Diridon; need to have a broader vision for the community and San Jose.
- Diridon Station area should consider undergrounding Highway 87 and integrate Guadalupe River; consider separating pedestrian and bike paths and a large park (e.g., wildlife sanctuary); promote self-sufficient development with green practices (e.g., rooftop gardens).

